

OXC - 1383
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24 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Development Branch, DPO-DD/P

SUBJECT : Visit to Laughlin Air Force Base,
Del Rio, Texas

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1. On 16 and 17 February 1961, [redacted] and Lt. Col. Wilson (AFMIG-5) visited Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas. The purpose of the visit was to review the maintenance bookkeeping procedures for possible implementation into the OXCART program. It was felt that the special procedures of this unique Air Force unit would have direct application to our program of a one-of-a-kind vehicle operating from a single base.

2. All maintenance, maintenance control, and records are under the direction of Lt. Col. I. A. Shulkin, the Director of Maintenance. Col. Shulkin has established a maintenance supply and control system very similar to our U-2 system of a depot, contractor, using organization triangle with the headquarters management in the center. The single depot stocks all necessary spares for the complete operation rather than a separate ⁷⁸⁶for each category of parts. Phone traffic with the required paperwork follow-up serves to expedite the resupply and thus minimize aircraft down time.

3. The depot supply stock levels have been determined by a very superior method of maintenance bookkeeping. A card file system has been constructed using a separate card for each item in the aircraft. These cards are arranged so as to maintain a life history of each part by serial number and all cards are grouped by airplane. A double entry type system is used not only to keep such historical data, but to schedule forecast changes, inspection, and repair. The maintenance work sheets and time cards are coordinated with the Statistical Control and Analysis Sections in determining such forecasted information. The Record Section is manned by approximately [redacted] The Statistical

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4. It is beyond the scope of this memorandum to fully explain the system in operation at Del Rio or to recommend a detailed system to be used in the QXCART program. However, all three visitors were very favorably impressed with the operation of the SAC U-2 maintenance unit. Therefore, it seems prudent to recommend the following:

- (a) That a Director of Maintenance for the QXCART program be selected as expeditiously as possible.
- (b) That the selected Director of Maintenance be charged with the responsibility for establishing the system of bookkeeping to be used in the program during both the flight test and operational phases.
- (c) That the Director of Maintenance visit Del Rio for a detailed study of the system in use.
- (d) That the Director of Maintenance be given a high priority in staffing the offices necessary to set up and implement the system of maintenance control and bookkeeping.

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